the draft of the National Civil Aviation Policy is presently under inter-ministerial consultation before being submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

Sale of Al and lA's equity to staff

115. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Governments consideration to sell Air India and Indian Airlines equity to staff and small investors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of equity proposed to be sold to each category, the price thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The proposals of Air India and Indian Airlines to go in for Initial Public Offering are under consideration of the Government.

Status of Pune Airport as an International Airport

t116. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to accord the status of international airport to Pune Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are taking a decision to start air service between Pune and Sharjah keeping in view the large number of persons of the area employed in Gulf countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons tnerefor?

THE MINIST*ER* OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for declaring Pune Airport as an nternational Airport, for which inter-ministerial consultations have been started.

†Original nonce of the question was received in Hindi.